



N.O.W. News

Vol. 49 No. 4

Winter 2011



Season's Greetings

Numismatists of Wisconsin

is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.

Contributions are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual NOW convention.

Numismatists of Wisconsin holds Life Memberships in the American Numismatic Association and Central States Numismatic Society.

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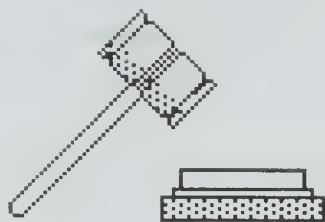
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NOW News Deadlines

February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1

website www.numismatistsofwisconsin.org



N.O.W.

NOW Website Update

www.numismatistsofwisconsin.com

[by Leon Saryan #100L]

NOW has operated a professionally built and managed website for almost four years. Our principal purpose, like that of all NOW activities and programs, is to educate collectors and the public about money and numismatics. I think that our website is serving this purpose admirably.

I have been gratified that the website has given us the chance to help collectors identify their coins and identify reputable dealers to evaluate and purchase their coins. I have handled several such cases in the past couple of years.

Over the years, we have beefed up the site with links to several numismatic websites, including the ANA, the U.S. Mint and the BEP, the Secret Service, the ANS, Central States and other organizations.

News articles featuring coins and currency can be found under the "What's New" pull-down tab. There are also tabs covering ANA news, club news, new books, club meetings, coin shows, membership applications, and links to send e-mails to the NOW officers.

Since we began, we have attracted a lot of traffic to our website. On occasion, someone who is particularly excited (or upset) will send me an e-mail to express their opinion. Here is text from an e-mail praising NOW's website that I received from collector Jacob Crane.

"Thank you for sharing these links to coin collectors. I am really pleased about the number of links in addition to the great content available on <http://www.numismatistsofwisconsin.com/section08.html>. Such a big help for numismatists like me. I'd usually spend hours online looking for a good resource until I discovered your website. It was a breeze going through your page - you really did a good job here. Now your site is just a click away from my bookmark. I am hoping that you continue to maintain your page..."

The website can always make use of photos of NOW activities or information that can be linked to our site. Please send any material intended for the NOW website to the website coordinator Leon Saryan at tramaked@aol.com.

Thanks are due to Justin Staley who has helped build and maintain the website on an ongoing basis.

Be sure to visit www.numismatistsofwisconsin.com often and bookmark the site for future reference.

* * *



Your vote is needed!

Each year articles written and published in NOW News are voted on by NOW members and winners receive cash awards donated by the South Shore Coin Club, Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC and the Milwaukee Numismatic Society.

A "Vote for the Best" form is included with this newsletter. Please review each of the articles and vote for 3 of your favorites.

The purpose of our Writer's Awards is to encourage numismatic journalistic talents among our members. If you have written a numismatic article, send it to the editor and maybe you'll be one of next year's winners.



ANA Convention Report

More than 9000 collectors attended the ANA World's Fair of Money held last August at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont. During the 120th Anniversary Convention, the Association enrolled 543 new members.

David Bower's "History Diary" article in the "Numismatist" provided a nice study in contrast to the ANA Convention held in Chicago a century earlier in 1911. A room at the headquarters hotel, with a sink and hot and cold running water cost \$2 a day, with a bathroom down the hall. No rooms were available with private baths and for another \$2 you could have three nice meals. For 2011, you can move the decimal point over two notches, more or less.

A hundred years ago, only 50 registrants were on hand when the event began. Most either lived locally or came to the city by train. Likely, only a few had automobiles.

William Taft was in the White House. The national economy was recovering nicely from the Panic of 1907. ANA President, J.M. Henderson lamented that in recent times the Association had suffered a loss of members, dropping from 654 to 552. The good news was that ANA was solvent, with \$175.76 in the bank.

The hot topic of the day was whether dealers should be allowed to serve on the ANA Board. Although dealers were allowed to serve, the matter did not rest. Generations later, a Board member stated that dealers were a "necessary evil," not

specifically on the Board, but buying and selling at shows. A spokesman for the Professional Numismatists Guild rejoined that if dealers were absent, the convention would be empty of visitors.

The coin collecting hobby has come a long way since 1911. Not only do our "fussy" members now demand private baths, but they also want TV and other media, such as an internet connection. There were no in-room telephones in 1911, but now most people prefer using their cell phones.

This year's attendance was over 200 times the 1911 attendance and a few probably arrived by jumbo jet nonstop from Tokyo, London or some other location.

ANA Bylaw Changes

Effective August 19th ANA bylaws were revised with one change limiting ANA Life Membership to those who have been members for at least 3 consecutive years. This does not affect those who were life members prior to the revision.

After feedback and deliberation, the Board set the minimum voting age at 13.

* * *

Central States Numismatic Society

73rd Anniversary Convention April 18-21, 2012

Collectors are already looking forward to this convention which will be held at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, Illinois.

In addition to a bourse with 250+ booths manned by leading dealers from roughly 30 states, the convention will feature an exceptionally high-quality educational exhibit area as well as two Heritage Signature Sales, one focused on rare coins and the other on collectible paper money.

A highlight of the event will be an 8-session Civil War Educational Forum featuring programs presented by numismatic researchers, Civil War enactors and Civil War academic researchers. The Civil War is perhaps the most studied and published aspect of American History.

Civil War topics will include "Civil War Era Banking and Currency, Civil War Tokens, Divided Families During the Civil War, 17th Corps Field Hospital, Battlefield Trauma Care During the Civil War, and President Lincoln's (portrayed by Dennis Boggs) "My Evolving Views on Slavery and Emancipation."

George Fuld, a widely recognized authority on Civil War tokens, will be on hand Friday, April 20th to talk about Civil War Tokens. In collaboration with Melvin Fuld, he is the author of "A Guide to Civil War Store Card Tokens, Patriotic Civil War Tokens and U.S. Civil War Store Cards, as well as numerous published articles on the field of study represented by his books.

While the forum won't pretend to make you an instant expert on the subject, it will give you a greater understanding of this era in our history than you had prior to participating.

For reservations at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel, call the facility directly (847-303-4100) and mention rate code "CSNCSNA" for a special single or double rate of \$139.

A complete schedule of events can be found by visiting www.centralstates.indo.

* * *



Coin Club News

South Shore Coin Club

President Darrell Luedtke reminded us that the month of November is truly one for American holidays, celebrations and family get-togethers. Veterans Day honoring military veterans was observed on November 11th, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Tom Casper recently walked into one of his favorite stores looking for that elusive piece of exnumia to add to his collection. The proprietor handed him a 3-ring binder titled "Property of Milwaukee Numismatic Society." As Tom thumbed thru the pages he was surprised to see ANA membership cards made out to MNS for 1935 thru 1938, along with undated letterhead showing names of the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Librarian.

The book included letterheads from other clubs, brochures, newspaper articles relating to numismatics, some of which mentioned the MNS and its members. Items dated from 1935 (one year after MNS was formed) to 1950. One newspaper article said that the MNS was born in the back room of Polzer's Jewelry Store at 1132 W. Walnut St.

There was no MNS member's name in the book, so Tom assumed it was assembled by officers during those years. He did recognize one person in a photo – Gale Highsmith, past president and long-time member of MNS and Numismatists of Wisconsin. Tom didn't realize that MNS had any records going back that far and he was permitted to photocopy the book, which was placed in the club's library at the October meeting.

Racine Numismatic Society

The club's Holiday Dinner will be held December 8th, with an optional gift exchange. Their October newsletter announced that they will be hosting the NOW show in 2014.

Madison Coin Club

At their November meeting, members began planning and designing the wooden nickel to be given out at their 80th anniversary show to be held on March 25, 2012.

Madison Coin Club -- "What a Day!"

[by RuthAnn Phillips LM #98]

On August 20th, at 8:00 a.m., eleven members of the Madison Coin Club boarded a stretchy limo and headed to Chicago for the ANA convention. It was raining heavily, coming down non-stop. We entered the limo wet and cold, just to find out that the air conditioner was blowing cold air at full capacity. (Cold and wet doesn't work well together). The rain kept coming down and was joined by an awesome lightening show all the way to Chicago.



We arrived at the show around 11:00 a.m. and after we agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m., everyone took off in different directions. I loved the exhibits, which were really outstanding. I saw friends I haven't seen in years and was enjoying myself visiting with them, walking and talking which was quite a chore when your feet were hurting.

Although we had agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m., we were all happy to see each other at 4:00 p.m.... pleased, but tired. We called our driver and left the show at 4:32 p.m.

Heading back, we had planned to stop at the Belvedere Oasis, but before arriving at the Oasis, we heard a "thump" and thought we had run over something. We checked the damage when we arrived at the Oasis and discovered that we lost rubber on one of the back tires and that the impact also broke one of the tail lights. While the driver was calling his boss to figure out what to do, we grabbed a bite to eat, which was a good thing.

The remedy for our current woe was to travel the back roads to our home base in Milton. We stopped for beer, and on the way back almost hit a deer. When we finally arrived at Milton, we decided to take the bus home... but guess what? The battery was dead. We boarded the limo just to find out the air conditioner wasn't working so we exited the limo and waited for another limo to come. The limo that came was from a wedding and it was a mess.

We finally arrived in Madison about 8:15 p.m. Everyone was tired, but ready to go again!



Madison Coin Club Members to ANA



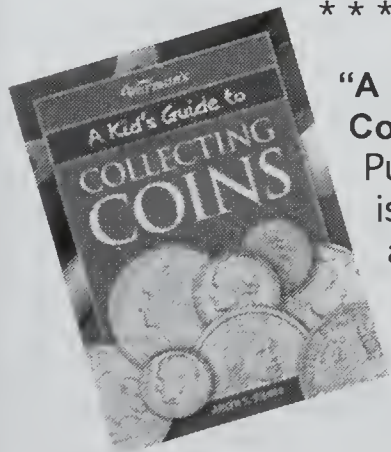
BookNook for Christmas

“Coin Collecting for the Next Generation” would make a great Christmas gift attracting young people to the hobby. Kevin Flynn’s new book provides techniques used by organizations with proven track records of growing young membership.

The publication’s primary objective is to get young people to become active collectors. It presents ideas for Scout clinics, club activities, coin shows and more. It also offers helpful hints, like how to make coin shows fun and exciting.

This 6x9”, 128-page book sells for \$12.95. For more information, visit www.stantonbooks.com or phone 800-828-8306.

* * *



“A Kid’s Guide to Collecting Coins” is available from Krause Publications. “Coin collecting is a great hobby for people of all ages and with this book we’re hoping to get kids involved at a young age” said KP publisher, Scott Tappa.

The book is fun, educational and can provide hours of fun for families.

Authored by Arlyn G. Sieber, readers can search for coins to complete a special coin puzzle, start a hobby for as little as 1¢, learn from how-to’s and other handy tips.

Join the ranks of 140 million Americans who are part of the “hobby of kings” -- coin collecting.

“One Coin is Never Enough”

Krause Publications has released another new book that takes a fun look into the minds of collectors. “One Coin is Never Enough: Why and How We Collect”.

Author Dr. Michael S. Shuffy, Jr. explores the act of coin collecting from every angle and provides guidance on how to get started and enjoy this great hobby. He contends that coin collecting is nothing less than a creative endeavor that allows collectors to express themselves in unique ways by forming meaningful collectors.

In particular, strategies for enhancing the excitement of the hunt and the sweet taste of acquisition are examined while challenging the reader to appreciate and embrace, the deeper motivations that urge us to seek out that special coin. For more information visit www.selicoinsbooks.com/new-category/one-coin-is-never-enough. For review copies contact Meghan McKeon at 212-447-1400 ext. 12257 or Meghan.mckeon@fwmedia.com.

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Krause Publications Introduces New Retail Magazine Distribution

Krause Publications, a leading publisher of magazines and books serving coin and paper money collectors, has developed and now implemented an alternate solution for retailers no longer being serviced by McKnight Sales Company to carry its magazines.

KP will offer retailers the option to purchase either 3-month or 6-month bulk subscriptions to its five numismatic publications: BankNote Reporter, Coins, Coin Prices, Numismatic News and World Coin News.

Additional F+WKP publications will be added to the program in the coming weeks. The program will feature a 60% discount off cover price. There will be a minimum of 3 copies per title with no returns. The magazines will ship directly from the printer via USPS and shipping is free.

Initial orders may be placed at www.fwmedia.com/retail with customers selecting the title/term they are interested in ordering. An on-sale schedule for the remainder of the year is available at KP. For additional information, contact KP's customer service group at customerservice@krause.com.

* * *

'Gold at Pigeon Roost: The Story of America's First Gold Mining Scrip'

by Fred N. Holabird and Al Adams Jr.

Mining geologist Fred Holabird and Dahlonega, Georgia, coin dealer Al Adams Jr. recount the stories of the Georgia Gold Rush, the Pigeon Roost Mining Company and similar ventures from 1830s through the Civil War. This book describes the miners' ingenuity as they developed mining techniques and banking and assaying systems. Georgians paved the way for an industry that flourished during the California Gold Rush.

Georgia's Pigeon Roost Mining Company was the first major mine operating in the 1830s. It issued scrip in lieu of U.S. coins which rarely circulated on the Appalachian frontier. The book documents these notes in detail, as well as stock certificates and other means of trade.

The 96-page, 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 inch publication retails for \$9.95 and can be purchased from Wizard Coin Supply www.wizardcoinsupply.com.

*Good judgement comes
from experience.*

*Sometimes, experience
comes from bad judgement!*

New Standard Guide to Small-Size U.S. Paper Money Available

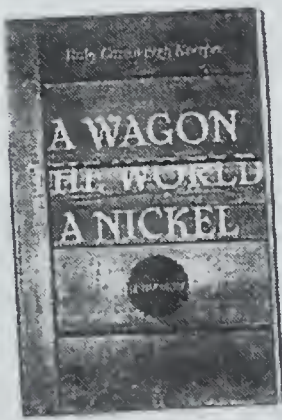
Krause Publications has released the 10th edition of the Standard Guide to Small-Size U.S. Paper Money.

Authored by leading paper money experts John Schwartz and Scott Lindquist, the Standard Guide is the ultimate price guide for dealers and collectors of small-size U.S. paper money.

Features include:

- 300+ color photographs
- Complete serial number data
- Precise quantities of notes printed observed
- Design and production details
- Current market values in up to 4 grades of condition

For more information, visit www.sellcoinbooks.com/us-paper-money/standard-guide-to-small-size-u-s-paper-money-10th-edition.



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Chickasaw National Recreation Quarter

[U.S. Mint]

The fifth and final America the Beautiful quarter of 2011 was launched in a special ceremony on November 16th in Sulphur, Oklahoma.

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area is unique in that it was founded through the support of the Chickasaw Nation and exists as a part of the national park system to provide for the protection of the area's unique resources, springs, streams, lakes and other natural features; to protect and interpret its cultural history, historic landscapes and structures, to commemorate the Chickasaw Nation. The area provides for public education, appreciation and recreational use and enjoyment of those resources. It was originally established as a national site on July 1, 1902.

The reverse image depicts the Lincoln Bridge built of limestone and dedicated in 1909 to celebrate the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The bridge is the first constructed improvement in the national recreation area and a favorite scenic spot. Inscriptions are CHICKASAW, OKLAHOMA, 2011

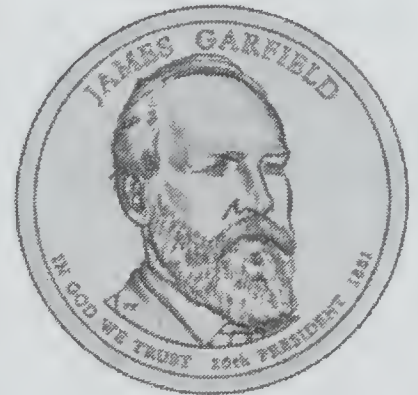


Presidential \$1 Coin

James Garfield 20th President 1881

[U.S. Mint]

James Garfield was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1831.



He graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts and returned to the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College) in Ohio as a classics professor and then its president. He was elected to the Ohio state senate in 1859. In 1862, he was elected to Congress and served 18 years.

At the 1880 Republican convention, Garfield won the nomination for President on the 36th ballot.

On July 2, 1881, just 4 months into his term, an embittered attorney who had unsuccessfully sought a consular post shot the President in a Washington railroad station. He lay wounded in the White House for weeks. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, tried in vain to find the bullet with an electrical device he had designed. On September 6, Garfield was taken to the New Jersey seaside. For a few days he seemed to be recuperating, but on September 19, 1881, he died from infection and internal hemorrhage.

No coinage legislation was enacted during President Garfield's term and no U.S. Mint Directors were appointed by President Garfield.



Lucretia Garfield First Spouse Gold Coin 1881

U.S. Mint

Lucretia Rudolph Garfield was born on April 19, 1832, in Garrettsville,

Ohio where she acquired a love of learning from her father. She first met future president "Jim" Garfield when they both attended a nearby school, and they renewed their friendship in 1851 as students at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute.

The couple began a courtship in December 1853, not marrying until November 1858. Their first child, a girl, died in 1863. A 2-year old son died in 1876, but 5 children grew up healthy and promising. "Crete" became more and more her husband's companion.

The Garfield family arrived at the White House in March 1881. Just two months later, the new first lady became seriously ill with malaria and went to a New Jersey costal resort to recover.

Lucretia was still convalescing at a seaside resort in New Jersey when an assassin shot her husband on July 2, 1881. She returned to Washington by special train "frail, fatigued, desperate, but firm and quiet and full of purpose to save.

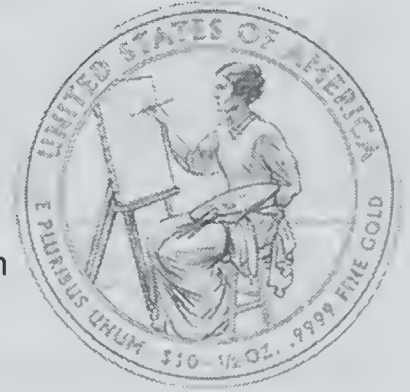
During the 3 months her husband fought for his life, her grief, decoration and fortitude won the respect and sympathy of the country.

After the President's death, the bereaved family went home to their farm in Ohio and for the next 36 years she led a strictly private, but busy and comfortable life, active in preserving the records of her husband's career. She died on March 14, 1918.

Reverse Design:

In 1869, Lucretia and James built a large home in Washington while he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Crete" set aside one room in the house for herself, where she was able to paint and draw in private. The reverse design represents Lucretia's interest in art and features her painting on canvas with brush and palette in hand.



* * *

Important Changes to U.S. Savings Bonds

[Simply Good Banking]

Savings bonds are very much a part of this country's history and culture and will remain a part of America's future, but in electronic form. However, savings bonds are not going away. After December 31, 2011 paper savings bonds will no longer be sold at financial institutions. If you are planning to buy a savings bond after December 31st, you can buy it online through TreasuryDirect, a secure, web-based system that has been used by investors since 2002. Opening a TreasuryDirect account is free.

Ending over-the-counter sales of paper savings bonds at financial institutions is a continuation of Treasury's all-electronic initiative announced in April, 2010. It's estimated that ending the sales of paper payroll and new issue OTC funds will save a total of \$120 million over the next 5 years in areas such as printing, mailing, storing bond stock and fees paid to financial institutions for processing bond applications.

Existing paper bonds are still valid and will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date or until redeemed. For more information, visit www.treasurydirect.gov.

* * *

Bank of America Does About-Face on Debit Fees

[WI State Journal]

Last month Bank of America Corp. announced they were scrapping its plan to charge a \$5 monthly fee for making debit card purchases after an uproar and threatened exodus by customers.

The about-face comes as customers petitioned the bank, and mobilized to close their accounts and take their business elsewhere. The outcry had already prompted other major banks to cancel tests of similar debit card fees. Bank of America's co-chief operating officer, David Darnell, said "Our customers' voices are most important to us. As a result we are not currently charging the fee and will not be moving forward with any additional plans to do so."

The wave of fee hikes comes as the industry adjusts to new regulations. In particular, banks in the past year have blamed their fee hikes on a new federal regulation championed by Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois. The law, which went into effect last October, caps the amount banks can charge merchants whenever customers swipe their debit cards.

Editor's note: This seems like a victory for consumers, but is it really? Our bank just sent an updated list of various fees they will be charging customers effective January 1st.

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"Coins Act" Introduced To Save Taxpayers Billions

[R.S.C. Jordan House.gov]

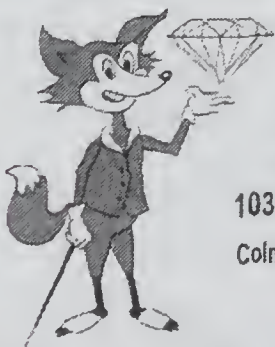
Representative David Schweikert introduced a bill last September to reduce the deficit by billions of dollars by phasing out the \$1 bill. The Currency Optimization, Innovation and National Savings (COINS) Act calls for a transition from the dollar bill to the dollar coin to reduce government waste.

The legislation would require Federal Reserve Banks to stop issuing the \$1 note 4 years after enactment of the legislation or when circulation of \$1 coins exceeds 600 million annually -- whichever comes first. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has been advocating this change for more than 20 years, and in its latest report released in March, it found that hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted each year by the continued use of the dollar bill.

By making the switch, it is estimated that the government would save an average of \$184 million a year, a conservative \$5.5 billion over 30 years.

Rep. Schweikert made the following statement: "At a time when we are staring down a record-breaking \$1.3 trillion deficit, any commonsense measure that cuts billions needs to be given serious consideration. That's exactly what the COINS Act will do and why I am introducing it. Protecting taxpayer dollars has never been more critical. One area where we can save money is our currency. This is a responsible way to trim our bloated deficit and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this cost-saving legislation. Washington needs to learn to save money to save our future for our children and grandchildren."

* * *



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Royal Canadian Mint Celebrates NHL's Return

[Royal Canadian Mint]

After a 15 year absence, the NHL is returning to the City of Winnipeg and the Royal Canadian Mint will celebrate this occasion by producing two special commemorative



coins: a 2011-2012 Winnipeg Jets 50-cent commemorative coin and a 2011-2012 Winnipeg Jets \$20 commemorative pure silver coin. The 50-cent coin was unveiled at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Royal Canadian Mint Chair of the Board James B. Love and Winnipeg Jets owner Mark Chipman.

The Mint is devoted to producing coins which celebrate Canadian's history, culture and values. Many of Canada's most notable sporting moments have featured hockey and we are proud to commemorate yet another, this time in Winnipeg, the home of our state-of-the art production facility where the Winnipeg Jets 50-cent coin was produced.

Hockey fans can order both coins by visiting the mint's website at www.mint.ca. The 50-cent coin with nickel-plated steel, retails for \$14.95. The 99.99% pure silver \$20 has a limited mintage of 15,000 and retails for \$94.95.

The Royal Canadian Mint is the Crown Corporation responsible for the minting and distribution of Canada's circulation coins. An ISO 9001-2008 certified company, the Mint is recognized as one of the largest and most versatile mints in the world, offering a wide range of specialized high quality coinage products and related services on an international scale.

Austrian Coins Prizes in KP Sweepstakes

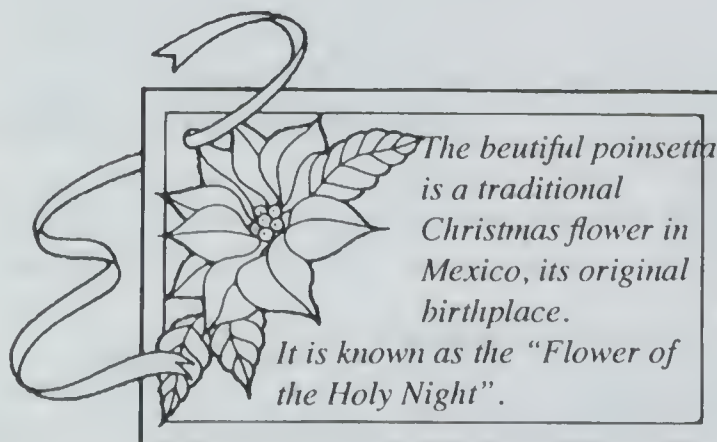
A pair of innovative, attractive coins from the Austrian Mint are prizes in the latest coin sweepstakes from Krause Publications.

The 2010 silver-Niobium Renewable Energy Coin features a brilliant blue niobium center. The 25-Euro coin has a mintage of 65,000, has a ring of 9g silver and core of 6.5g pure niobium and a diameter of 34 mm. The coin's obverse image depicts the cycle of nature in a tree.



The 2010 10-Euro Silver Charlemagne Coin is the 4th in the "Tales and Legends in Austria" series, depicting one of the most well-known stories involving Charlemagne. It has a mintage of 130,000, is composed in 92.5% sterling

silver, weighs 16 grams and is 32mm in diameter. Visit www.numismaticsnews.net/sweepstakes to enter.



The beautiful poinsettia is a traditional Christmas flower in Mexico, its original birthplace.

It is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night".

Finest Known 1870-CC \$20 Gold Lib Stolen

[Heritage Auction]

A Brinks shipment from Professional Coin Grading Service to Heritage Auctions on October 17th was apparently broken into, and the finest known 1870-CC \$20 stolen. The coin is graded AU58 by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation and carries NGC Certification ID 3414402-001.



“When we opened the Brinks bag, it was evident that the shipping box had been sliced open, and the PCGS box within was empty” said Paul Minshull, CEO of Heritage. “We immediately called PCGS, who confirmed that their security surveillance video showed that the box and package with the coin were shipped as usual and in good order. At that point we contacted Brinks security and our insurance company, and their investigations began. We also reached out to the FBI. In my 28 years at Heritage I have never heard of a coin loss in a Brinks shipment before, so this is an extremely rare incident.” said Minshull.

The 1870-CC \$20 rarity was only recently discovered and sent to Heritage for auction. According to Heritage President Greg Rohan,

it was slated to go into the FUN Platinum Night auction in Orlando in January.

“While the coin is fully covered under our insurance, this is about more than money. It’s really about what we hope will be just a temporary loss of a numismatic treasure.” Rohan said. “This rarity was not only newly discovered and the finest known, but it was a gorgeous coin and the best ever seen in the marketplace.”

The Carson City Mint had been under construction since 1866, but many delays were experienced due to inclement weather, lack of building materials, and a chronic shortage of funds to pay the workers. They began coining operations on February 11, 1870, with a small emission of silver dollars. Coinage of double eagles commenced on March 10th, with a delivery of 1,332 pieces. Technical problems continued to beset the Mint, and the first year’s total production of double eagles was only 3,789 pieces. That entire mintage was released into circulation so every 1870-CC double eagle known today shows some signs of wear (the issue being completely unknown in Mint state). Experts estimate a surviving population of 35-50 examples in all grades.

“At this level of rarity, the coin will turn up in the marketplace sooner or later, and it will be identified because it’s so notable.” said Minshull. “We’re working with the authorities to coordinate all avenues of inquiry to prompt an early and safe recovery of the coin and apprehend all wrongdoers.”

Heritage Auctions, headed by Steve Ivy, Jim Halperin and Greg Rohan, is the world’s third largest auction house, with annual sales more than \$750 million, and 600,000+ online bidder members. For more information about Heritage Auctions, and to gain access to a complete record of prices realized along with a full-color, enlargeable photos of each lot, visit HA.com.

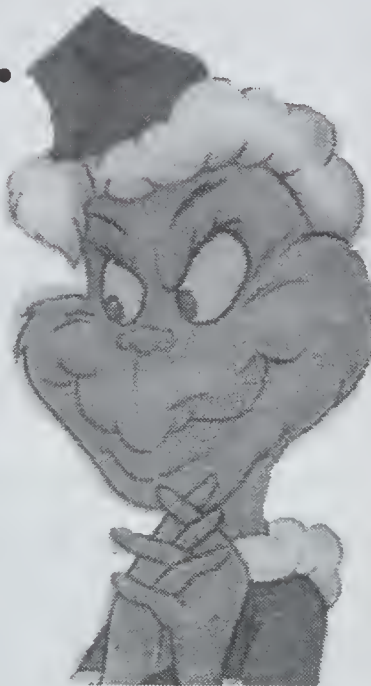
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Dealers... and Collectors

Help!

The LaCrosse
County
Sheriff's
Office is
seeking
information regarding any suspicious
offerings for purchase or sale of a
grouping of approximately 20-30
Golden Eagle coins (1980s-1990s
mint dates) during May/June/July
2010 time period in the LaCrosse
area and surrounding cities/areas.

Anyone having information is asked
to contact Investigator
Fritz Leinfelder, LaCrosse County
Sheriff's Office at 608-785-6194.



You Might Live in Wisconsin...

If you consider it a sport to gather your
food by drilling through 20 inches of
ice and sitting there all day hoping that
the food will swim by, you might live in
Wisconsin.

If you have more miles on your snow
blower than your car, you might live in
Wisconsin.

If your family wears "Packer's green" to
church, you probably do live in Wisconsin.

The Ultimate Maverick A Token of the Alzheimer's Association

[by L. A. Saryan LM #100]

Token collectors use the term "maverick" to describe any token for which the issuer and location are not inscribed on the metal. For example, a token that reads "Joe's Bar/Good for 5 Cents" would be a maverick, since the viewer will ordinarily have no idea who Joe is/was or where his establishment is/was located.

Such a token or medalet arrived in my mail a few days ago. Unlike the "Joe's Bar" example mentioned above, this piece has no writing whatsoever on either side or on the edge! The design, which is the same on both sides, is probably unrecognizable to almost everyone reading this article. The token is brass, 25.0 mm in diameter, and 4.87 grams. Five or ten years from now, I can guarantee that this piece will confound an exnumia collector.

Only by identifying the design logo can we determine what this token represents. In the interest of preserving this information before it's forgotten, I'll do so here.

This token was sent to me from the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, a national organization dedicated to combating progressive dementia in older adults, as a token of appreciation for a contribution that we recently made to the group. I have a family member who is afflicted by dementia now, and I can affirm that this is a cause very worthy of our charitable support.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of irreversible dementia and affects about 5.4 million people in the U.S.A. It is devastating not only to the afflicted, but to their families who must provide in some cases many years of care as the disease progresses.

Donations to the Alzheimer's Association are used to fund research directed toward finding a cure, to provide helpful information and support for family caregivers, and to reduce the future risk of dementia by promoting brain health.



The symbolism on the token is intended to reflect that "our treasured memories make us who we are, and reside in our hearts as well as our minds." The logo shows a heart and a symbolic representation of the mind.

For more information on the Alzheimer's Association and how you can help, contact the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900 or at www.alz.org.

* * *

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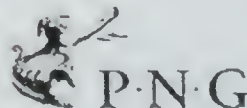
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The Badger Honor Flight Medal: A “True” Error

Dreux J. Watermolen #1755

Introduction

The national Honor Flight Network provides World War II veterans and terminally ill veterans from any war an opportunity to see the Washington, DC memorials erected in their honor. Badger Honor Flight, a Madison-based network hub, aids veterans locally by providing free flights and guided tours. The group has commemorated its early trips with a handsome medal struck by 4Heros, a Green Bay-based firm that specializes in military themed items. Originally struck with an error, this medal provides an interesting souvenir recognizing these flights in honor of our veterans' sacrifices.

The Honor Flight Network

The Honor Flight Network website (www.honorflight.org) provided details about the organization's history. The program was conceived by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force captain, who wanted to honor veterans he had cared for. Following completion of the World War II Memorial in 2004, Mr. Morse found it unlikely that many of these veterans would actually be able to visit their memorial because of financial or physical limitations (most were in their 80s and lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip on their own, and families and friends often lacked the resources and time to accompany them).

In addition to caring for veterans, Mr. Morse was also a private pilot. Late in 2004, Morse asked one of his veteran patients if it would be alright to personally fly him to DC, free-of-charge, to visit his memorial. The veteran, who broke down and cried, graciously accepted the offer telling Morse that at his age he would probably otherwise never get to see the memorial. Shortly

after, Mr. Morse posed the same question to a second veteran. When he received a similar response, Morse quickly realized that many veterans would have this same reaction. So he started asking other pilots to help.

In January 2005, Morse addressed members of a Dayton, Ohio aero club, outlining a volunteer program to fly veterans to their memorials. He posed two stipulations: 1) the veterans would pay nothing, and 2) the pilots would personally escort the veterans around DC. After Morse spoke, eleven pilots volunteered and Honor Flight was born.

With 79 regional hubs in 34 states, the Honor Flight Network now provides veterans with all trip related expenses. Funding comes primarily from individuals and fraternal organizations like local American Legions, VFW, and AM VETS posts, as well as various corporations. Volunteer guardians, who pay their own trip fees, accompany the veterans and take care of any special needs. Veterans interested in flying to Washington submit an application and are selected for flights on a first-come, first-served basis, with exceptions being made for terminally ill veterans who receive priority status.

Badger Honor Flight

Wisconsin boasts five regional Honor Flight hubs, the first being the Freedom Honor Flight that operates out of LaCrosse. The Madison-based Badger Honor Flight, which formed in early 2009, serves veterans primarily in Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk, and parts of Dodge counties. Badger Honor Flight has already conducted two flights: its inaugural flight on April 17, 2010, and a second on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

The Medal

Following the October flight, I joined friends at the Dane County Regional Airport to welcome veterans home. Badger Honor Flight volunteers were selling a variety of souvenirs, including a handsome medal minted by

4Heros, to commemorate the event and support future flights. It was here that I obtained three examples of the medal minted with an error.



*Wisconsin
Badger Honor Flight
Medal*



The medal measures 45 mm in diameter and appears to be struck in bronze. The obverse features a colorized Badger Honor Flight logo in its center, a WWII-era aircraft with the outline of Wisconsin in the background. The state is colored red and a white star marks the location of Madison. The words "BADGER HONOR FLIGHT/WISCONSIN" encircle the logo in white lettering on a blue background. The reverse features a colorized depiction of the WW II Memorial, with "WWII MEMORIAL/DEDICATED TO OUR TRUE HEROES" encircling it.

The model was initially struck with a spelling error on the reverse; the word TRUE was misspelled as "TURE". Correspondence with 4Heroes indicated that 175 of these medals were minted and shipped to Badger Honor Flight before anyone detected the error. Replacements were sent in late October 2010.

4Heros has produced medals for various military fraternal organizations and similar flight events. I am unsure how many medals have been issued for other Wisconsin Honor Flights, but at least one was produced for Milwaukee's Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. That medal's obverse features the flight hub's logo, a blue plane flying around a red globe. A couple of white stars highlight the globe. The obverse reads "STARS AND STRIPES/HONOR/FLIGHT/WISCONSIN". The reverse depicts the same

colorized WWII Memorial shown on the Badger Honor Flight medal, but it is encircled by "WWII MEMORIAL/EVERY DAY IS A BONUS".

While the "TRUE" error represents an unfortunate mistake in the production process, both the error version and the corrected flight medals make nice additions to WWII, military, veteran, and Wisconsin exonumia collections. Their purchase, in a small way, helps repay our veterans for their dedicated service.

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Wisconsin State Jnl. Letter to Editor 11/19/11

"Badger Honor Flights are such a special way to recognize those among us who served during World War II. The most recent one was last Saturday. It was a very long day for those vets and their escorts, starting and ending with a charter flight, to visit the many memorials and monuments in Washington, DC.

I was among the hundreds of family members and friends who greeted them as they left the plane late on Saturday evening and were escorted through the Madison airport terminal. There were cheers, smiles, hand shakes, hugs and tears as they came thru the long passageway lined by grateful people of all ages.

There were countless expressions of respect and appreciation including those shown by a teenager, very neatly dressed in his Boy Scout uniform complete with merit badge sash, who stood proudly and extended his hand to every veteran and said "Thank You".

IN SEARCH OF A. F. DYER

[by Jeff Reichenberger #1433]

(The bulk of this article is derived from a previously published feature in the February 2011 issue of the John Reich Journal – the journal of the John Reich Collectors Society)

This is the on-going story of a counterstamped Capped Bust Half Dollar that Gene Johnson wrote about in the spring 2010 issue of NOW News. As any of you know who have tried to track down the origins of a counterstamp, the task can be filled with gaps and unanswered questions.

Many of you will recall Gene's fine article entitled 'Old Friends', which began; *"Fifty years is a long time to look for a lost 'friend' and this writing will mark the end of the search, but not my curiosity."* He explains, *"In early 1960 an altruistic numismatist from Washington State offered to swap me a counter-stamped half dollar, 'A. F. DYER / 1869 / W. EAU CLAIRE. / WIS.', for an amount of Idaho tokens. With the observation that a Wisconsin counterstamp should be in a Wisconsin collection."*



Gene's search for just who A. F. Dyer might be was intense for the first ten years, explaining that he exhausted his considerable personal references as well as those of the Eau Claire, WI public library with help from the reference librarian who took an interest in the search. They spent countless hours scouring newspaper

microfilms, city and county directories, and name-by-name searches in Dunn Wisconsin Directories of the period.

The article immediately intrigued me, and having an interest in bust half dollars, I was equally compelled by the coin. So I decided to pick up where Gene left off in the search for A. F. Dyer.

A lot has changed in the 50 years since Gene began his search, and I thought I might be able to find something on the internet, so I started with the simple and obvious quick search, 'A. F. Dyer' and found nothing. I delved into every conceivable combination of key words related to this subject...to no avail. Next I contacted the Eau Claire Historical Society. The archivist was unable to make any connection. Next it was the Eau Claire public library, the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, and the Wisconsin Historical Society...nothing! I guess the more things change the more they stay the same!

Then a light bulb went on to show the way. Actually it was modern technology that lit the way – annoying modern technology – a pesky pop-up advertisement for Ancestry.com. I went to the site and found that they have a free search so I typed in, 'Seeking A. F. Dyer' and sent it into cyberspace. One week passed, then another week, then another, and then I got a reply! Shock and glee rushed over me at once. A kindly gentleman asked what the reason was for my search, (I guess the genealogy people don't like to dole out information to just any old crackpot) I explained the counterstamp, name, year, and location, and he then sent me some compelling information that started the basis for my theory.

He suggested that I check the U. S. census listings. So I paid the nominal fee for a one-month membership to Ancestry.com and searched everything! The kindly genealogist helped me along the way with the 'how to search, 'where to look', 'what to look for' questions I had, which were numerous.

Eventually I found a compelling lead. Could this be our man?

There was an inquiry that popped up from 1997 by someone in the Dyer family searching for the siblings of his grandfather. In his search he found one, Arthur Franklin Dyer, born 23 Oct. 1843; died 14 Nov. 1917; Portland, Maine. Buried in Bay View Cemetery, South

Portland. This information apparently came by actual view of the gravestone, or perhaps cemetery records. I was unable to find anything online to confirm this information, no obituary, burial records, cemetery records, etc. and I was unable to locate this family member who conducted the inquiry.

In the 1850 Federal Census for Portland, Maine he is listed as A. F. Dyer, age 6, estimated date of birth 1844. Father Arthur, age 41, merchant; Mother Hannah, age 28.

(I spoke to my genealogist friend about the discrepancies in age and birth years listed and he explained that this is common. Census takers were rarely sticklers for accuracy.)

In 1860, Portland, Maine, he is listed as Arthur F. Dyer, age 17, grocer and clerk.

In 1870, he is not found in Portland, Maine, however, there is a Frank Dyer listed in the Census for West Eau Claire, Wisconsin, age 24, estimated D.O.B about 1846, occupation – raftsman. (I learned that a raftsman was a lumberman whose job it was to ride huge rafts made of logs and lumber down river to deliver them safely. The Chippewa River meets the Mississippi and the raftsmen would navigate many miles to different points down river, and then return by steamboat or by foot. The Chippewa River runs through Eau Claire, where during the 1850's, 60's, and 70's lumber was king. There were many mills operating in the area and they employed thousands of laborers. [1]) Again, the age discrepancy is present. It was explained to me that a Census taker would enter a large labor camp, in this case a large lumber camp, and many of the workers would be out working, therefore, whomever was there to be counted would tell the census taker information about his fellow workers, or show them a labor roster. Looking at the actual census ledger shows that there were 46 individuals counted in the group with Frank Dyer. The majority of them were from Canada, Maine and New York, some were simply listed as being from the USA and a few were from Germany, Ireland, and Norway. Unfortunately, Frank was listed from the USA, not Maine. My speculation would be that whoever gave the census taker the information, simply did not know Frank's exact age or where he was from, other than he was an American.

In 1880, he is back in Portland, Maine listed as Arthur F. Dyer, age 36, wood and coal dealer.

He is not found anywhere in 1890, but in 1900 he is listed as Frank Dyer, age 55, laborer.

He is not found in 1910, and then we have the unverified death date; November 14, 1917.

So now I'm trying to cross-reference the findings for verification. I am in the process of searching archival records of the lumber companies that were operating at the time in hopes of finding which company he worked for and perhaps some paperwork that shows his full name, etc. It's a long shot because the mills hired so many men and generally with a handshake rather than formal paperwork.

Of course there are many more questions:

Why would he use his middle name? Who knows, remember he is listed as A. F., Arthur F., and Frank in the census records.

Would a young man in Maine go to Wisconsin for work in the lumber mills? The census roster shows that many workers came from Maine, New York, and Canada.

Would he make a 'pocket piece' out of a half dollar that represented a half-day's wages? (On average lumbermen made around 50c a day in 1870. However, raftsmen did better, making from \$1 to \$3 a day.) [2]

Did he make any more counterstamps? Perhaps when he returned to Maine? This particular piece is unique as far as we know.

The Coin

Naturally, after reading Gene's article and doing research on it, I was compelled to see if I could acquire the coin. Since Gene mentioned he was *ending his search*, I thought he might be willing to part with it and carry on the suggestion that *'a Wisconsin counterstamp should be in a Wisconsin collection'*. And indeed, he was more than happy to accommodate. In a letter he replied to my inquiry: *"Jeff.. and I was very pleased to know that my counterstamp will find a Wisconsin home and a dedicated owner. My hope is that you will uncover the man Dyer and write a happy sequel to the wonderful token/coin and it's legacy of the man."*

When I met with Gene, he was intrigued by the possibility that 'Frank' was our man. He was particularly pleased that there was a Frank Dyer placed in West Eau Claire, WI in 1870. To him this was the most applicable evidence for a couple reasons. First, the name West Eau Claire was short lived. Between 1860 and 1872, the area on the west side of the Chippewa River was known by no less than 4 names; Half Moon, Oak Grove, Randall Town, and lastly, West Eau Claire. In 1872, the three towns of West Eau Claire, North Eau Claire, and Eau Claire were incorporated into the singular 'Eau Claire'. [3] So there was perhaps a 4 or 5-year period when this part of town was known as West Eau Claire. Our man would have had to reside there and countermark his coin between 1867 and 1872, which he did (1869). Second, I estimated from the 1870 Federal Census that the entire population of the three areas of Eau Claire was approximately 3700. Slightly over one third of those, or about 1300, were listed from West Eau Claire. So out of 1300 residents in West Eau Claire in 1870 there is a man named Frank Dyer. (The census shows there were no other Dyers located in Eau Claire or the pre-incorporated towns 1850 - 1910) And we have a coin that is marked 'A. F. DYER, from West Eau Claire in 1869. The coincidence seems overwhelming.

The first thing I noticed about the 1811 Capped Bust Half when I had it in my hand was the small 8. The 'bible' for attributing die varieties for bust half dollars is 'United States Early Half Dollar Varieties' by Al Overton. I attributed the die variety for this coin as Overton 108. (The coin is listed in 'Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins', by Gregory G. Brunk, D-646 pg. 376. 2003 Edition.)

Next I turned my attention to the countermark. Gene had mentioned in the article that he thought the counterstamping was from a prepared die. But a die-strike would more likely be associated with a merchant of some sort, and many would be struck to use as advertising. Conversely, a hand-punched piece is more conducive to a guy who just wanted to make a lucky pocket charm. Obviously, my theory wants this coin to be hand-punched.

As I looked at the stamping, I wasn't so sure it was die struck. While it is well done, it certainly is not as perfect as one would expect from a prepared die. The arches of A.F. DYER and W. EAU CLAIRE are not quite contour. 1869 and WIS are on off-angles. Gene

recalled that his conclusion of die-strike was mostly based on his observation that it is better done than other hand-punched pieces he has encountered. Neither of us being experts on the subject, he suggested I get an expert opinion.



When I got the coin home, I examined it on the microscope and found mounting evidence that it had been hand-punched: The letters are tilted in different directions, the depth of strike varies from letter to letter, the spacing of the letters varies, the depth and spacing of the periods varies. Close examination of the letters shows that the punches used are relatively crudely cut. The serifs are heavy and uneven, the stands are not uniform, and some of the serifs appear chipped or broken and mushy. I also believe that the same punch

was used for some of the letters. The E's and A's match, the I's and R's appear to be the same punch but slightly damaged after the first blow. I think the 6 and 9 are the same punch flipped upside down. The bulging/flattening on the reverse appears uneven and lumpy as though some letters were punched with a heavier blow than others, whereas, a die strike would show more even flattening.



Taking Gene's advice, I sent photos and my observations to a couple experts in the field of early federal coinage, Edgar Souders and Brad Karoleff whom both emphatically pronounced, "Hand-Punched". Establishing that this is a hand-punched pocket piece lends more credibility to my theory... but questions remain.

How does a lumberman get a hold of a set of letter punches? If he does get the punches, does he have the skill to stamp the coin? Did he pay someone else, perhaps a jeweler to execute the stamping? Since he had the punches in hand, did he make more than one?

Conclusion

My theory is that around 1868, Arthur Franklin Dyer, at about age 25, packed up and left Portland, Maine, perhaps with a buddy or two, to answer the call for workers in the booming lumber industry in western Wisconsin. He either had some previous experience, or simply had the wherewithal, strength, dexterity, and swimming ability it takes to be a lumber raftsman. (Raftsmen were tested for their swimming skill.) [4] He liked his work but knew the dangers. On one of his paydays he took a half dollar, punched (or had punched) his identification on it and carried it with him every day on the job for good luck, or perhaps to identify his body should he meet his demise and go to the great log roller in the sky. He moved back to Maine when the lumber industry began to cool down in the mid to late 1870's. Did he carry the coin with him back east? Did he spend it before he

left Wisconsin? I'll never know, but like Gene Johnson said, it won't stop my curiosity. NOW members, any feedback or suggestions to further the investigation are welcome and encouraged! I will follow up if anything else comes to light.

Epilogue

Since the article was published in the John Reich Journal, there have been a few questions answered and a few more intriguing leads presented.

Distinguished numismatic author David Lange responded about a few items:

"There were no results from the 1890 census, since most of this record was lost in a fire many years ago."

"Regarding Dyer's use of his middle name instead of his first name, note that father and son had the same first name, Arthur. It's likely that he was therefore known as Frank from childhood to distinguish him from his father. A parallel can be found in Q. David Bowers, who uses his middle name to distinguish himself from father, both of them being named Quentin."

"I had similar experiences to yours in using census records. Both names and dates varied from one edition to the next. You can imagine the haste in which census takers had to work when conducting their interviews door-to-door".

Dave's notes coincide with my findings about the census, and his insight about the name also lends support to the hypothesis and why he was known as A.F., or Frank.

Gene Johnson sent me two Dyer listings from the 1872 Gazetteer, which may open a new possibility. Listed, as 'Druggists' from Boscobel were, 'Dyer and Peterson 'as well as,' Dyer and McWilliams. I theorized that Dyer left Wisconsin in the mid-1870's. Did he quit lumbering as early as 1871? Could he have simply moved 150 miles south to open a drug store in Boscobel?

Finally, about four months later I received an enthusiastic email from a gentleman named Bruce Mosher who blew my socks off! Here is what he had to say:

"I've collected and researched counterstamps for years and have contributed many new attributions and previously unlisted pieces to Greg Brunk and Russ Rulau."

Since you were soliciting comments from Journal readers, I thought I'd throw in my "two cents" worth."

"First, I believe you've found the real issuer of the counterstamp. While it's rare to be 100% certain, after reviewing your evidence carefully, I feel strongly that Arthur F. Dyer is indeed the issuer."

"I agree absolutely that the piece is hand punched and not from a prepared die. All the physical characteristics are consistent with individual letter punches being used. Not only that, but manufacturing an expensive prepared punch would have been impractical to stamp a single coin with (I feel your counterstamp is unique... personal momentos nearly always are). Though I wouldn't call this a "pocket-piece" per se, it's surely personal identification of some sort. True pocket pieces generally exhibit more wear and/or damage than this one does. Especially considering the physical demands of his job. The punches were likely available where he worked, as they would want to mark tools and equipment or other things the company owned. He probably just borrowed the punch, set one day when he had some spare time and went to work. No particular skill is needed to stamp a coin. I've done it myself with pretty decent results."

"The inaccuracies in the census data can be explained by the factors you've already outlined in the article. When using them to trace people, birth dates, initials, and any other number of things can be wrong due to recording errors, bad information, etc."

"I've attached a page to my e-mail that may be "your" A.F. Dyer. It says circa 1885, but the store is in Skowhegan, not Portland.

He may have lived and worked there during those years, but I didn't find anything to confirm that. You may have seen this photo before, but I thought I'd send it along, just in case you hadn't."

NO, I had never seen this photo! Could this be an actual photo of 'our' A. F. Dyer?? Skowhegan is about 95 miles north of Portland, Maine. What kind of store is it? A drug store perhaps? A 'drug' store back then was often simply an all-purpose store carrying many everyday items as well as potions, lotions, and pharmaceuticals. Did A.F. Dyer set up a store in Boscobel for a few years before heading back to Maine to open a store there? Remember, his father was a merchant in the 1850's, and A. F. is listed as a grocer/clerk as a teenager, then a wood and coal dealer later in the 1880's. Were wood and coal and other fuel items part of his all-purpose store? Obviously, we need to do some more digging!!

Sources:

[1][3][4] *'The History of Eau Claire County'*, William F. Bailey, ed. 1842 – 1914.

[1][2] *'Lumbermen on the Chippewa'*, Malcolm Rosholt, 1982

Special thanks to Gene Johnson for his trust, insight, and stewardship of this awesome half dollar.

Thanks to the genealogy gentleman I met on Ancestry.com. (Mr. Tim), who helped me immensely.

* * *



*A.F. Dyer Store
Skowhegan, Maine
circa 1885*

Finder's Keepers?

[News-Sickle Arrow article compiled by Phyllis Calkins]

A few weeks ago our local newspaper included this story that happened a half-century ago in Black Earth, Wis. A family found over \$18,000 stashed in their attic, but their dream eventually soured.

In 1961, you could buy a middle class mansion for \$18,000. With that kind of money, you could buy five or six new cars... those big ones with the fins...

The average annual median income in 1961 was about \$5,700, and \$18,000 represented 3 years income. So you can imagine the mental images that flashed through the minds of the Gilbert and Dorothy Cockroft family after Gilbert pulled aside a loose board in the attic of their home and discovered \$18,565 in assorted bills and coins.

This was one of the biggest stories ever to hit Black Earth. It made all the area papers and it went national as well, making the New York Times and other metro papers.

The Cockroft story was a story gone "viral", 1961-style, and for a little while the Cockrofts and their new home were famous... and, for a little while, they were rich.

The Capital Times quoted Gilbert as saying "I don't really know whose money it is, but I'll find out Monday". It turned out he didn't find out on Monday -- that decision came over two years later. And in the end, much to the dismay of many, it was ruled the money did not belong to the Cockrofts. Not one penny.

Cash in Cans

The late Gilbert Cockroft's children remember the sequence of events like it was just played out. Especially the day of discovery, Saturday, September 30, 1961.

"I went running through the house yelling 'Daddy found some money. Daddy found

some money" laughs Paul, who was 8 at the time.

The Cockrofts moved to Black Earth on June 1, 1959, paid \$8,000 for the former funeral home and settled into their new home. Their home featured 4 small bedrooms upstairs and an attic over the kitchen that amounted to being another upstairs room. Diana, who was 12, had a friend visiting the night her father was rummaging around in the attic. Then she heard her dad say "I think I found some play money in here." Diana recalls saying "Dad, that's not our stuff."

Gilbert removed a board covering a small cubby-hole in the attic. The space contained a coffee can, a gallon can and a wooden box, according to reports at the time. Opening them, he found the containers were packed with tightly-wound bills, mostly old, large \$20 bills with some 10s and 5s and a few 100s and 50s.

In addition, there were 19th century gold coins with a face value of less than \$1,000, but an unknown collector value. The oldest coin was dated 1851, according to several newspaper accounts. Once he realized he wasn't dealing with play money, Gilbert brought the containers down to the kitchen and a hasty, disorganized count ensued recalls his children.

Initially, the Cockrofts came up with a figure of about \$22,000. Gilbert called village constable "Clancy" Obright, asking if he could stop over, but it wasn't an emergency. When Clancy arrived and realized what was going on, he asked "Whatddya mean, this isn't an emergency?"

Legal Questions

The Cockrofts put the money under their bed and kept it there until the bank opened on Monday, remembers Paul. "We didn't take pictures of the money. I wish we had".

Once the money was in the care of the bank, the gold was exchanged for currency – based on the gold's face value – and the count was finalized recalled Cockroft.

Soon local funeral director Harold Schanel, who sold the Cockrofts their home, was on their doorstep, saying the money belonged to his family.

According to Paul, Schanel told the Cockrofts the late Chris Schanel, Harold's father, told them on his deathbed, "I've hidden money somewhere in the house" and they searched and found \$300 somewhere else in the house. The implication, said Paul, was that the Schanels had thought the \$300 was the money Chris Schanel was referring to and subsequently abandoned their search. Schanel said his dad didn't trust the banks during the Depression, but this money (the \$18,000) was old.

Schanel offered the Cockrofts one fifth of Gilbert's find, with the Schanel heirs dividing up the rest. Gilbert declined the offer.

Gilbert's father-in-law had advised him to get a good lawyer. "A lot of people said when you buy a house, you buy what's in it". The court did not agree with that philosophy, however. On February 12, 1963, a jury awarded the entire amount to the Schanel family. The decision was upheld several months later by Circuit Judge Richard Bardwell.

No Hard Feelings

You'd think someone who had lost out on a small fortune would harbor some ill will. The children of the late Gilbert and Dorothy Cockroft say they do not.

The episode actually ended up costing the Cockrofts money – they had to pay court costs and attorney fees.

Still, nearly \$20,000 in 1961 – the equivalent of nearly \$150,000 today – was indeed a small fortune.

* * *



A Stocking Full of

Caution!

**Something to Think
About and
Pass on to Friends**

Phyllis Calkins #99L

"A couple of weeks ago a friend of our daughter told her their car had been broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green adjacent to the football stadium, specifically allotted to football fans. Things stolen from their car included a garage door remote control, money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When they got home they found their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They knew the owners were at the football game, so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house.

Something to remember -- if you have a GPS, don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS is stolen.

Mobile Phones -- another big lesson

This lady changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc. was stolen... A few minutes later she called her husband from a pay phone telling him what had happened. Hubby said "I received your text message asking about our Pin number and I replied a little while ago." When they rushed to the bank, they were told all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of this lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like "home", Honey, Hubby, Dad, Mom, etc.. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked for thru Texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.



Shoppers Beware!

During the Christmas season shoppers are more at risk of having their wallets or ID's stolen than any other time of the year. These tips were submitted by Sue Ellen Miller.

Attorney's Advice -- No Charge!

- 1) Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
- 2) When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check-processing channels won't have access to it.
- 3) Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O. Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a P.O. Box, use your work address.
- 4) NEVER have your social security number printed on your checks. You can add it, if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
- 5) Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, social security number, credit cards, etc.

Unfortunately, I am an attorney and have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more...

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you:

- 6) We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll-free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
- 7) File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards etc. were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

Here's what is most important of all

Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the social security fraud line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, (almost 2 weeks after the theft), all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert.

Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw away my wallet this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Important Numbers To Remember

Here are the numbers you need to contact if your wallet has been stolen.

- 1) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 (TDD 800-255-0056)
- 2) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
(TDD 888-397-3742)
- 3) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 (TDD 877-553-7803)
- 4) Social Security Administration (fraud line)
1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes on the internet, we pass along just about everything. If you're willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone.



Celebrate the Season

Gingerbread has been a holiday tradition for thousands of years. It was originally eaten during Winter Solstice Festivals, but the tradition of the house made of Gingerbread originated in Germany.

Hallmark founded the gift-wrap industry in 1917. Before that date, consumers purchased Christmas tissue in seasonal colors. You may remember when stores wrapped all customer's purchases in Christmas paper.

When stores ran out of the tissue wrap, Hallmark produced the first wrapping paper created from decorative envelope linings and sold it for 10 cents a sheet.

Wrapping paper is \$2.6 billion a year industry.

The Festival of Santa Lucia

Saint Lucia of Syracuse was a Christian martyr from the 4th century. In Scandinavia, she has become a symbol of the Christmas season. She is often depicted with candles in her hair while she carries a tray of sweet breads.



The Festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn, on the 13th of December, which under the old Julian calendar (used in Sweden before 1753) was Christmas Day and the longest night of the year. Throughout Sweden, the eldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents, dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash, and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are set seven lighted candles. In her hands she carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and "Lussekattor" (Lucia Runs). The procession includes her sisters and brothers also dressed in white, holding lighted candles, and singing of the light and joy of Christmas.

The sisters of the Lucia Bride wear a wreath of tinsel in their hair and a piece tied around their waist, while the boys have tall pointed caps sprinkled with stars. Awakened by the lights and the singing, the parents arise and eat the breakfast served, thus ushering in the Christmas season.

Scandinavian tradition holds that in Varm-land, Sweden, the white-clad maiden, wearing a crown of burning candles, brought food to the starving villagers on the shores of Lake Vanern. No one knows how long ago the tradition began, but it was so far back that the festival of Santa Lucia was marked by a notch in the primitive "primstav" (calendar stick), the precursor of the calendar. It later became customary in western Sweden to finish the threshing by Lucia Day so as to begin the cooking and baking for the long Christmas festivities. From its beginnings in Varmland, the customs in honor of Santa Lucia have spread throughout Sweden, and

more recently to the rest of Scandinavia. Today the festival is celebrated in schools, hospitals, businesses and towns; each of which has its own Lucia Bride and festivities to mark the beginning of Christmas. Santa Lucia Day is also an international holiday, celebrated not only in Scandinavia, but also in Italy and France in the rites of the Church.

However, the origins of this tradition are not in Scandinavia, but in Syracuse on the island of Sicily around 304 A.D. According to the Sicilian legend, Lucia's mother, a wealthy lady had been miraculously cured of an illness at the sepulcher of Saint Agatha in Catania. Lucia, a Christian, persuaded her mother in thankfulness to distribute her wealth to the poor. So, by candlelight, the mother and daughter went about the city secretly ministering to the poor of Syracuse.

Unfortunately, this was during the last great persecution of Christians in the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. The pagan young man, to whom Lucia was engaged, took a dim view of this distributing of her dowry, and denounced her to the prefect, Pascasius, who ordered that she be seized and tortured. Miraculously, when neither boiling oil or burning pitch had the power to hurt her, she was blinded and slain with a sword. Her martyrdom was recorded in ancient sources and in an inscription found in Syracuse.

How or when this legend and tradition came to Varmland, Sweden, no one knows. With the coming of Christianity to Sweden shortly after 1000 A.D., missionaries and priests may have told the story to inspire new converts. Another possibility is that sailors from Sweden may have been captivated the popular candlelight festival of Santa Lucia in Italy and brought the tradition back with them.

A newer theory, requiring more research is that St. Birgitta (1303-1373), during her stay in Rome (1349-1373) in her effort to get papal approval of the Bridgittine Order

for women, probably wrote home to Sweden telling of the Lucia legend which was widely known in Italy. As Lucia Day comes at the darkest time of year, the candles of the ministering Santa Lucia portend and witness to the True Light-the-birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. On the morning of December 13th, the strains of Santa Lucia are heard everywhere in Sweden as the white-robed maiden comes out of the night wearing her burning crown of candles dispelling the darkness. In honor of her martyrdom, it has long been the custom to donate money on Lucia day to institutions working for the blind.

Since 1956, the Scandinavian Club of Portland has preserved the beauty of this ancient tradition with a festival celebrating the coming of Santa Lucia preceding the Christmas holidays. In 1960, the club collaborated with Lloyd Center, providing a spectacular setting on their ice pavilion for the coronation of the Lucia Bride each year. In the tradition of the charitable life of Lucia, the court members visit churches, hospitals, local businesses, and homes for the elderly telling the story of Santa Lucia and bringing the holiday spirit into the hearts of all they meet. These girls are goodwill representatives of all Scandinavian communities in Oregon and southwest of Washington, and the countries of their forebears – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

* * *



At Christmas it is traditional to exchange kisses beneath the mistletoe. In ancient Scandinavia, mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship. That may account for the custom of "kissing beneath the mistletoe".

2012 Coin Show Information

(Please print)

Show information for _____ Coin Club

Coin Club Website: _____

Coin Show Date(s): _____

Hours: _____

Location: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Number of Tables: _____

Show Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Send to: *Numismatists of Wisconsin*
P.O. Box 155
Mazomanie, WI 53560

2012 Coin Club Meetings

(Please print)

Coin Club: _____

Meeting Information:

Club Meets (date) _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Address: _____

City/State _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail _____

Send to: NOW Editor
P.O. Box 155
Mazomanie, WI 53560

Coin Club Meetings

Barron County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of each month at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 362, Chetek, WI 54868.

Elgin IL Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at the VFW Post 1307, 1601 Weld Rd., Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 561, S. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Sr. Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 7:00 traders; 8:00 business meeting. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

Fond du Lac Coin Club

Meets the 1st Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

Fox Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Prime Time Club, 11150 Valley Road, Menasha.

Intl. Bank Note Society - Midwest Chapter

Meets 1 p.m. at North Shore Library in Glendale. www.mcfls.org/northshorelibrary.

Kenosha Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

Lake County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. at the Gurnee Police facility, 100 N. O'Plaine Rd. Gurnee, IL. Contact: George Efsen, 847-975-5338.

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

Madison Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

Manitowoc Coin Club

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). www.milwaukeeenumismaticssociety.com.

Nicolet Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in Green Bay.

Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday in lower level of the Masonic Temple, 23 E. Davenport St., Rhinelander. Contact: P.O. Box 126, Rhinelander, WI 54501

Racine Numismatic Society

Meets 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant in Sturtevant (across street from the Amtrack Depot). Contact Bill Spencer 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg).

Richland Center Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Bowling Alley. No meetings June/July/August. Contact Larry Schlafer 608-279-1182.

Rockford Area Coin Club

Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O. Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

Sheboygan Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 every other Tuesday at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

South Shore Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. in Milwaukee. Contact Walter Weis 414-384-7966. www.sscmke.org.

Waukesha Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Waukesha Salvation Army offices at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-542-5990. www.waukeshaclub.com.

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Schofield, WI 54478. Ph, 715-542-2777.

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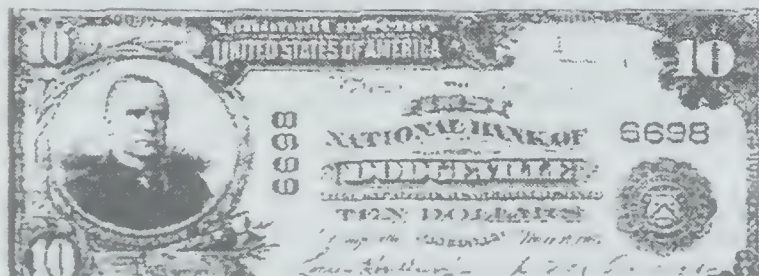
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Please send information on your upcoming show to the NOW News Editor, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, hours, number of tables and your show/bourse chairman's name, address and phone number.

2012

February 19, 2012 - Oshkosh

Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC 29th annual coin show at Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m. Free admission & door prizes. Contact Randy Miller, 920-231-6161.

February 26, 2012 - Racine

Racine Numismatic Society's Coin Show at Roma Lodge, Racine.

March 11, 2012 - Brookfield

Waukesha Coin Club's 43rd Annual Coin Show at American Legion Hall, 3245 N. 124th St., Brookfield, (across from Briggs & Stratton Engine Plant, I-94 to Freeway 45 North, Exit Burleigh St., travel west on Burleigh to 124th St., North on 124th 2 blocks). Hours 9-4 p.m. contact: www.waukeshaclub.com or 262-542-5990.

March 25, 2012 - Madison

Numismatists of Wisconsin and Madison Coin Club's Annual Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 50 tables. Contact Jim Essence, Jim's Coins, 702 N. Midvale Ave., Madison, WI. Phone 608-233-2118.

March 29-31, 2012 - Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Club's 48th Annual Show at Wyndham Hotel Airport, 4747 South Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: March 29 12:00-5 p.m., March 30 10:00-5 p.m.; March 31 10:00-4 p.m. \$1 donation over 12 yrs. First 100 veteran attendees admitted free. Free wooden nickel, door prizes. Show chm. Walter Weis, 414-384-7966. Bourse chm. Joe Bartoszewicz 414-384-7966 or joeedee71@sbcglobal.net.

April 1, 2012 - Appleton

Fox Valley Coin Club's 57th Annual Spring Coin Show at Darboy Club, N9695 County Rd., N. Appleton, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 40 tables. Show contact: James Bayer, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912-1981. Phone: 920-739-1089.

April 15, 2012 -

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club's annual show. Contact: Thad Streeter,

April 18-21, 2012 - CSNS

Central States Numismatic Society's 73rd Anniversary Convention at Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL.

May 6, 2012 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's show at Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay. Hours: 9-3 p.m. 30 tables. Bourse Chm. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313. Ph. 920-819-7294.

May 10-12, 2012 - ANA

National Money Show at Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO.

June 23 -29 & June 30-July 6, 2012

ANA Summer Seminar at Colorado Springs, CO

August 7-11, 2012 - ANA

ANA World's Fair of Money at Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA.

August 19, 2012 - Fond du Lac

(date pending)

August 26, 2012 - Madison

Coin show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m.. 55 tables. Show contact: John Krucher, 123 W. Cook Street, Portage, WI 53901. Phone: 608-745-3330.

September 30, 2012 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's annual coin show at American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma, Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 75 tables, \$1 admission. Show chm. Tom Casper 414-425-5444; tcasper57@hotmail.com. .

October 18-20, 2012 - ANA

National Money Show at Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX.

November 4, 2012 - Madison

Coin show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 55 tables
Show contact: John Krueger, 123 W. Cook Street, Portage, 53901. Ph. 608-745-3330.

2013

2013 - Numismatists of Wisconsin
at Sheboygan Falls.

August 2013 - ANA
World's Fair of Money, Chicago.



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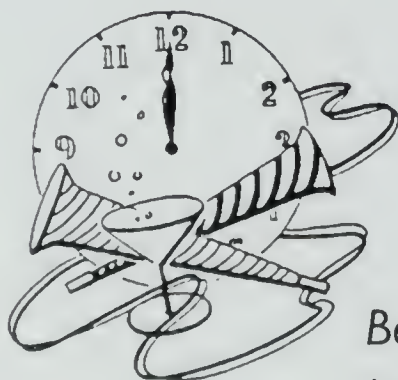
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